The Working of Debt Conciliation Boards.

ORDER No. R. 3807-18—L. R. 323-39-6, DATED BANGALORE, THE 18TH DECEMBER 1939.

The Scheme of Debt Conciliation was brought into effect in the marginally noted six taluks and Conciliation Boards were set up in these taluks with effect from 1st July 1938. From the reports of the working of the scheme in the taluks, it is observed that the results have not been sufficiently encouraging and the expectations which Government entertained when the scheme was sanctioned have not been realised. The presiding officers of the Boards and the Deputy Commissioners of Districts have brought to notice various defects and omissions in the scheme. Several suggestions have also been made in the Representative Assembly and by the public for the improvement of the law in the matter so that the measure may really bring in the benefit which it was intended to secure. Government consider that it is desirable to examine the scheme thoroughly in the light of the experience gained so far and to effect such improvements and supply such omissions as may be called for. They are accordingly pleased to direct that Mr. B. K. Ramakrishnaiya, M.A., LL.B., Munsiff, working as Assistant Secretary to Government, be placed on special duty to examine the working of the scheme in all its aspects and submit a report to Government within one month indicating the defects, if any, and suggesting the lines on which action might be taken so that the object of the scheme might be more fully realised. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to afford the officer the necessary facilities.

Chikballapur.
Madhugiri.
Devanhalli.
Nagamangala.
Sagar and Koppa.

B. T. KESAVIENGAR,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Reduction of Garage Charges on the Nandi Hill Station.

READ—

Government Order No. D. 6297-300—G. G. 123-37-2, dated 1st March 1938, prescribing *inter alia* a rate of Re. 1 per car per day, for occupying the motor sheds on the top of Nandi Hills, during the season.

2. Correspondence ending with Un-official Note No. 158, dated 11th September 1939, from the Chief Engineer of Mysore, suggesting for reasons explained, the levy of the garage charges at a uniform rate of annas 12 per car per day during the season instead of Re. 1 as read in the Government Order, read above.

ORDER No. D. 3092-95—G. G. 18-39-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 15TH DECEMBER 1939.

Government are pleased to accept the suggestion of the Chief Engineer.

B. T. KESAVIENGAR,
Chief Secretary to Government.

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

Report on the Working of the Stores Purchase Committee for the year 1938-39.

READ—

The Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Stores Purchase Committee for the year 1938-39, received with letter No. S. P. C. 112-3, dated 9th October 1939.

ORDER No. G. 5397-448—G. M. 65-39-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 15TH DECEMBER 1939.

Rajamantrapravina Mr. S. P. Rajagopalachari, First Member of Council, was the President of the Committee till the end of December 1938, and *Rajamantrapravina* Mr. N. Madhava Rau, was the President during the remaining period of the year.

Lokasevasakta Rao Bahadur B. K. Garudachar and Mr. S. K. Narasimhiah were the non-official members of the Committee. The Secretary to Government, Electrical Department and Mr. Kenneth Aston, Professor of Electrical Technology, Indian Institute of Science, were appointed as additional members of the Committee.

2. The total number of orders placed in foreign countries was 358 of the value of Rs. 33,85,107 as against 317 of the value of Rs. 44,01,322 during the previous year. The bulk of the purchases was for the Electrical and the Railway Departments and the Government Electric Factory and the Porcelain Factory. The total number of orders placed with the firms in India was 546 of the value of Rs. 30,72,835 against 565 orders of the value of Rs. 21,49,750 during the previous year. The total value of purchases arranged by the Committee with foreign and Indian, amounted to Rs. 64,57,942 as against Rs. 65,51,072 during the previous year.

3. The services of Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, London, were utilised for the purchase and inspection of all railway materials obtained in England and in the Continent and also in the case of single phase power transformers and switchgear equipment ordered in connection with the Shimsha New Project and the tunnel kiln ordered for the Government Porcelain Factory. The services of the inspection staff of the Indian Stores Department were utilised for the inspection of khaki drill and leather articles ordered on behalf ot the Police, Military and other departments, as also railway materials ordered for the Railway Department from firms in British India. The services of the staff of the Industries and Commerce Department were utilised for the inspection of furniture and boots purchased from firms in Mysore.

4. The total expenditure on the Stores Purchase Organisation, including the contribution paid towards the Trade Commissioner's Office, the expenditure on Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton and the salaries, establishment, and contingencies of the Stores Purchase Committee amounted to Rs. 34,005 which worked out to an incidence of 0·53 per cent as against 0·51 per cent during the previous year.

5. The work of the Committee continued to be satisfactory. The Heads of Departments are requested to see that the defects mentioned in the report regarding the matter of preparation of indents, the estimating of requirements and inordinate delay in the matter of payment for stores obtained from firms in India and failure to obtain Government sanction before purchases are made are avoided in future.

P. H. KRISHNA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Administration Report of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the year 1938-39.

READ—

Letter No. 537, dated the 14th September 1939, from the Chief Inspector of Mines and Explosives, submitting the Administration Report of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the year 1938-39.

ORDER NO. A. F. 2967-82—GEOL. 39-39-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 14TH DECEMBER 1939.

Recorded.

2. *Mining Operations.*—The following tabular statement shows the output of gold and silver and the financial results of gold mining operations during the years 1937 and 1938:—

	Mining operations.	*1938*	*1937*
1. Output	Gold ...	... 321,114·829 Ozs.	330,710·223 Ozs.
	Silver ...	... 22,295·50 „	21,642·07 „
2. Total value ...		... £2,287,386	£2,307,454
3. Total amount paid in dividends		... „ 462,214	„ 519,864
4. Royalty payable ...		... „ 170,959	„ 193,344
5. Total demand under Royalty		... Rs. 29,28,619*	Rs. 32,29,836
6. Total collection under Royalty		... „ 25,22,924	„ 28,47,342

*Inclusive of the previous year's balance.

The deepest workings on the Kolar Gold Field are reported to be over 8,400 ft. vertically below field datum, the rock temperature in Ooregaum Mine at the 88th level horizon (8,228 ft. vertically below the datum) being 136°F. All known methods of deep mine ventilation have been adopted by the mining authorities on the Kolar Gold Field. The ammonia compressor type air conditioning plant for dehumidifying and cooling the downcast air in the Ooregaum mine was put into operation at the end of August 1938, resulting in an appreciable reduction in the underground air temperatures and the elimination of heat exhaustion cases. A similar air-conditioning plant is reported to have been ordered for the Champion Reef mine which is at present experiencing excessive heat at the lower levels. There were 15 cases of heat exhaustion against 23 in the previous year. The use of ice for cooling drinking water has been discontinued and instead, three "Frigidaire" water coolers have been installed at the 88th level in the Mysore mine with a view to providing a continuous supply of cool drinking water to the workmen at the bottom levels.

3. *Mining Labour.*—The total number of persons employed in the mining industry in 1938 was 25,985 against 26,666 in the previous year. Of this number, 24,031 (15,528 underground and 8,503 on surface) were employed in gold mining. There was no change in the general working hours underground or on surface. The improvement of the accommodation and living conditions of the workmen continued to receive the close attention of the mining authorities. Chief among the improvements undertaken during the year were the following:—

(1) Appointment of Sanitary Overseers to look after the cleanliness of labourers' quarters.
(2) The construction of incinerators of the army type to burn all rubbish in workmen's lines.
(3) The construction of sanitary cattle sheds on all the mines for accommodating cattle belonging to the workmen.
(4) The opening of night schools for adult education.

4. *Mining Accidents.*—The total number of accidents reported during the year was 167 (223). Of these accidents, 29 were fatal, 135 serious, and 3 non-mining. The total number of fatal and serious accidents was therefore 164, which works out at the rate of 6·31 (8·18) per 1,000 persons employed. Departmental enquiries were instituted in respect of all these accidents. Though the number of avoidable accidents due to recklessness has decreased from 8·26 per cent to 4·27 per cent, the percentage of accidents due to negligence was 1·35 per cent, more than in the previous year, *viz.*, 10·98 per cent against 9·63 per cent. It is reported that the accident and death rate per 1,000 persons employed continue to show an appreciable reduction in spite of an increase in the number of men working underground. The gradual reduction in the accident rates is stated to be due to the intensive education of workmen in safety-first principles. It is hoped that the accident prevention campaigns vigorously undertaken by the mining companies, will result in the further reduction of avoidable accidents from various causes. In the 29 fatal accidents, 49 persons were either killed or died as a result of injuries received, giving a mortality of 1·89 per 1,000 persons employed, against a mortality of 1·84 during the year 1937. Eight accidents due to rockbursts accounted for 23 deaths, against 13 and 19, respectively, in the previous year. The improved methods of support, such as granite masonry packs in stopes and steel sets in levels, which were introduced in all the mines, are reported to have withstood the effects of large ground movements and reduced the damage to the mine workings to a minimum. In spite of all known precautions being taken, rockbursts still continue to cause anxiety. They were responsible for nearly 44 per cent of the total number of deaths during the year 1938.

During the year, 119 claims for compensation comprising 44 fatal, 2 permanent total disablement and 73 permanent partial disablement, arose from accidents in the mines on the Kolar Gold Field. The compensation awarded amounted to Rs. 58,664 (Rs. 70,986). Besides the above, compensation amounting to Rs. 20,653 was paid in cases of temporary disablement. Miner's phthisis or silicosis has been added to the list of occupational diseases in Schedule III of the Workmen's Compensation Act XIV of 1928, as amended by Acts Nos. III of 1936 and XIX 1939. A special Committee has been constituted to frame rules governing the grant of compensation to workmen suffering from this disease.

5. *Explosives Section.*—Eight hundred and twenty-one licenses (8 by Government and 813 by District Magistrates) were granted under the Mysore Explosives

rules against 807 during 1937. The number of inspections of explosives premises carried out during the year by magisterial and police officers was 927 (874). It is reported that, although there was a slight increase in the number of inspections of explosives premises by the magistracy and the police, the percentage of licensed premises inspected, *viz.*, 32·88 per cent (32·49 per cent) continues to be low and only some premises in towns have been frequently inspected neglecting those in the interior and country parts. Forty-three accidents due to explosives are reported to have occurred resulting in the death of 8 persons and injuries to 64 others, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 50, 16 and 60, respectively. Of the 43 accidents, 5 occurred on the Kolar Gold Field, resulting in the death of 4 persons and serious injuries to 7 others. These accidents are stated to have been due to drilling into or intersecting old holes containing remnants of the previous charge and necessary action is stated to have been taken against the persons responsible for negligence in such cases.

6. *Petroleum.*—During the year, 206 (174) licenses were issued under the Mysore Petroleum Rules. The total quantities of dangerous petroleum and kerosene oil imported into the State during the calendar year 1938 were 2,569,870 and 4,078,113 gallons, respectively, against 2,535,378 and 3,956,640 gallons, respectively, during 1937.

7. *Carbide of Calcium.*—Six licenses were granted under the carbide of Calcium Rules.—

8. The Mysore Power Alcohol Act No. VIII of 1939, providing for the compulsory admixture of alcohol with petrol was passed during the year and the rules framed thereunder came into force from 1st October 1939 in the districts of Bangalore and Tumkur.

9. *Conclusion.*—The work of the department during the year was satisfactory.

P. H. KRISHNA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Assistant Superintendent of Insurance.

READ—

Notification No. A. F. 1797—J. S. 10-39-3, dated the 11th October 1939, appointing the Excise Commissioner in Mysore, who is the *Ex-officio* Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in Mysore as Superintendent of Insurance under the Insurance Act XXII of 1939.

ORDER No. A. F. 2987-9—J. S. 10-39-5, DATED BANGALORE, THE 14TH DECEMBER 1939.

Government are pleased to direct that the Assistant to the Excise Commissioner in Mysore, who is the *Ex-officio* Assistant Registrar of Joint Stock Companies be appointed Assistant Superintendent of Insurance.

P. H. KRISHNA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Letters addressed to Attikan not to be sent on Mysore Government Service in future.

CIRCULAR.

ORDER No. A. F. 3018-84—P. & T. 7-39-4, DATED BANGALORE, THE 15TH DECEMBER 1939.

It has come to the notice of Government that official correspondence with the Sub-Assistant Surgeon of the Government Dispensary at Attikan, Mr. R. C. Morris,

Honnametti Estate Attikan and the Secretary, Biligirirangana Planters' Committee Attikan, is now being carried on "On Mysore Government Service."

Enquiries have revealed that the Mysore Government Bedaguli Dispensary at Muskal and the Honnametti Estate where Mr. Morris lives, are situated in the Coimbatore District in British India and the posting of letters to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon and Mr. Morris "On Mysore Government Service" is irregular.

Government direct that the posting of official correspondence to the above-mentioned persons "On Mysore Government Service" be stopped immediately.

P. H. KRISHNA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Mrs. S. R. Jayalakshmamma to be a member on the Board of Visitors to the Kolar Gold Fields Maternity Hospital.

READ—

1. Mrs. G. Benwhite ...
2. ,, J. M. Hosking ...
3. ,, Manickabai Prasad ...
4. ,, M. G. Matthan ...

Government Order No. G. 8614—Med. 253-37-2, dated 28th April 1938, sanctioning the reconstitution of the Board of Visitors for the District Hospitals and certain Local Fund Dispensaries in the State for a period of two years and appointing the ladies noted in the margin to the Board of Visitors to the Maternity Hospital, Kolar Gold Fields.

2. Government Order No. G. 5147-8—Med. 135-38-2, dated 25th November 1938, sanctioning the appointment of Mrs. E. M. Willis on the Board of Visitors (in place of Mrs. Manickabai Prasad) to the Maternity Hospital, Kolar Gold Fields.

3. Letter No. C. 1690-1, dated 30th November 1939, from the Senior Surgeon in Mysore, reporting that Mrs. M. G. Matthan, one of the members of the Board of Visitors appointed as per Government Order read above, has resigned her membership of the Board, and recommending in the circumstances explained, that Mrs. S. R. Jayalakshmamma, wife of Mr. K. Srinivasan, Special Magistrate, be appointed in her stead.

ORDER NO. G. 5524-6—MED. 149-39-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 19TH DECEMBER 1939.

The recommendation of the Senior Surgeon is approved.

P. H. KRISHNA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT

Report on the working of the Government Savings Banks for the year 1938-39.

READ—

Letter No. 184—S. B., dated 25th November 1939, from the Comptroller to Government, submitting the report on the working of the Government Savings Banks for the year 1938-39.

ORDER NO. FL. 3867-78—G. F. 193-39-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 21ST DECEMBER 1939.

Recorded.

The rates of interest on Current Deposits were revised with effect from 1st January 1939.

In respect of accounts opened for public and quasi Government purposes, interest at one and a half per cent per annum has been allowed, as a special case,